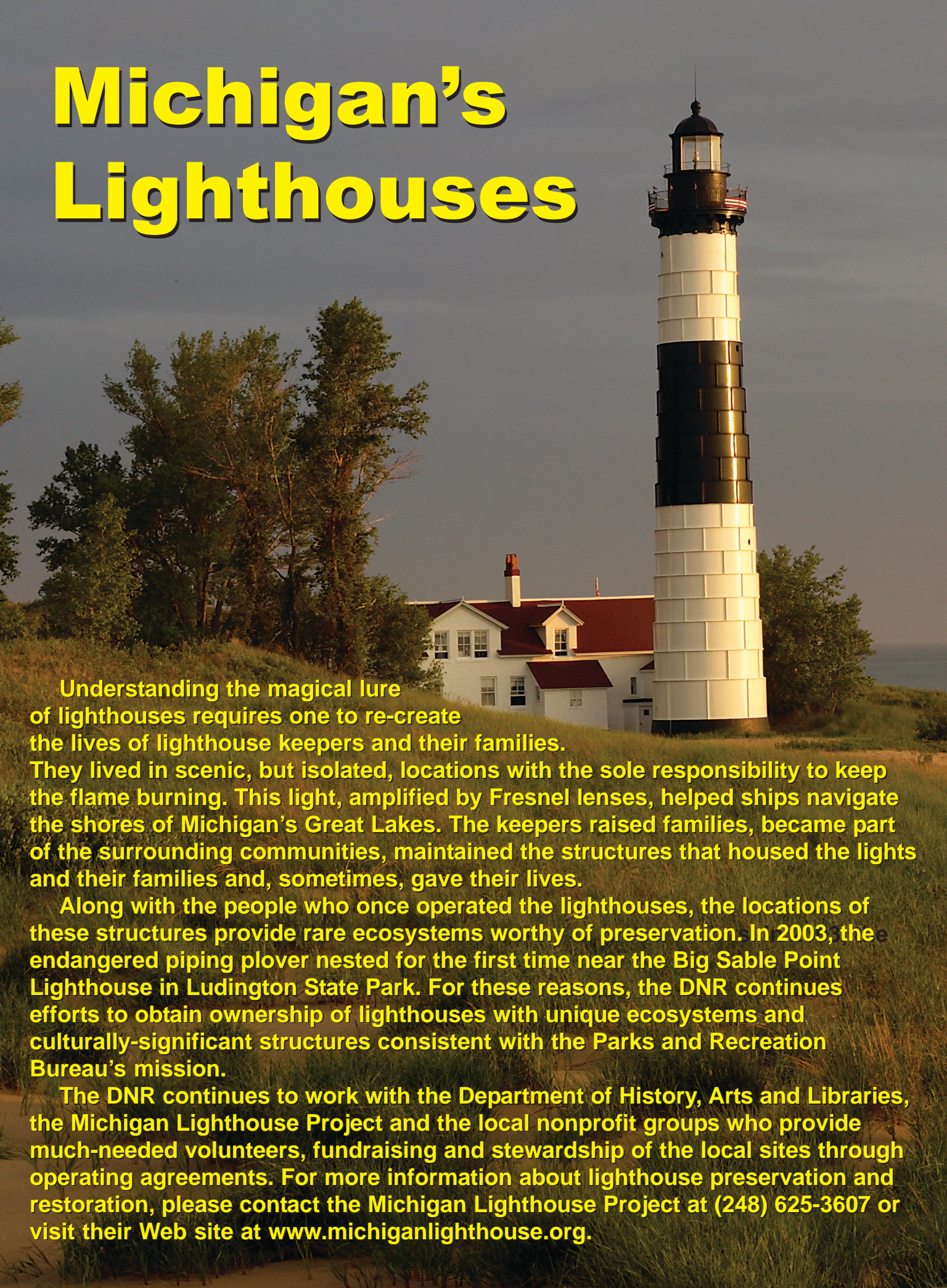


Michigan's Lighthouses



Understanding the magical lure of lighthouses requires one to re-create the lives of lighthouse keepers and their families. They lived in scenic, but isolated, locations with the sole responsibility to keep the flame burning. This light, amplified by Fresnel lenses, helped ships navigate the shores of Michigan's Great Lakes. The keepers raised families, became part of the surrounding communities, maintained the structures that housed the lights and their families and, sometimes, gave their lives.

Along with the people who once operated the lighthouses, the locations of these structures provide rare ecosystems worthy of preservation. In 2003, the endangered piping plover nested for the first time near the Big Sable Point Lighthouse in Ludington State Park. For these reasons, the DNR continues efforts to obtain ownership of lighthouses with unique ecosystems and culturally-significant structures consistent with the Parks and Recreation Bureau's mission.

The DNR continues to work with the Department of History, Arts and Libraries, the Michigan Lighthouse Project and the local nonprofit groups who provide much-needed volunteers, fundraising and stewardship of the local sites through operating agreements. For more information about lighthouse preservation and restoration, please contact the Michigan Lighthouse Project at (248) 625-3607 or visit their Web site at www.michiganlighthouse.org.

To learn more about Michigan's lighthouses and their role in maritime history, visit any of these locations:

- **Big Sable Point** at Ludington State Park: Standing 112 feet tall, this black and white striped lighthouse graces the state of Michigan's web site banner. Originally a conical brick structure built in 1867, the tower was encased in steel plates in during the turn of the century to prevent it from crumbling. The lighthouse is open for tours through a partnership with the Big Sable Point Lighthouse Keeper's Association.
- **Seul Choix Pointe**: Completed in 1895, its white tower stood 79 feet, 9 inches tall. The keeper's house has been restored, and the buildings are open for tours from Memorial Day to mid-September. The complex is located eight miles southeast of Gulliver, approximately 60 miles west of the straits. The Gulliver Historical Society operates the facility. Each fall, Monarch butterflies congregate nearby before migrating to Mexico.



Grand Traverse Lighthouse

- **Grand Traverse** at Leelanau State Park: Built in 1858, The Grand Traverse Lighthouse Museum group restored the keeper's house and have opened it to the public. The lighthouse was decommissioned when a modern beacon was relocated to a steel tower.



Tawas Point Lighthouse

- **Tawas Point** in Tawas Point State Park: Constructed in 1876, the light remains in use. The living quarters, however, have been restored and are open for tours. The facility is jointly operated by HAL and the DNR.

- **Sturgeon Point**: Opened in 1869, this light protects ships from a long, concealed shallow reef. The keeper's house and a restored school, both operated by the Alcona County Historical Society, are open to the public. The area provides a secluded place to picnic and explore the Lake Huron shoreline.

- **Copper Harbor** at Fort Wilkins State Park: Situated on the east arm entrance to Copper Harbor, the original building was constructed in 1867. The museum buildings are operated jointly by HAL and the DNR as museums.

- **Little Sable Point** at Silver Lake State Park: The tower was built in 1874 and automated in 1954. It is currently closed to the public.

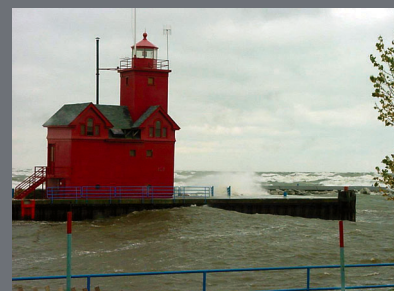
- **Copper Harbor Rear and Front Range Lights**: The rear range light was completed in 1869 and served as the keeper's dwelling. The front range light was built in 1964.



Little Sable Point Lighthouse

Other lighthouses associated with state parks:

- **Old Mackinac Point** near the Colonial Michilimackinac Historic State Park: Constructed in 1892, this building and tower will open for tours starting June 12. The lighthouse restoration and operations will be managed by Mackinac State Historic Parks.
- **Pentwater Pier** near Mears State Park
- **Keweenaw Waterway** near McLain State Park
- **Grand Haven Lights** near Grand Haven State Park
- **Holland Harbor** near Holland State Park



Holland Harbor Lighthouse